

NEVADA INDIAN COMMISSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 24, 2016 - 10:00am

Nevada Indian Commission Office, 5500 Snyder Ave., Carson City, NV 89701

Commissioners Present:

Richard Arnold, Chairman
John Hansen, Commissioner
Dan Carpenter, Commissioner
Marla McDade Williams, Commissioner

Staff Present:

Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director
Chris Gibbons, Program Officer I
Denise M. Becker, Administrative Assistant III

Guests Present:

Fran Maldonado, Tribal Liaison, Division of Child and Family Services
Julieta Mendoza, Tribal Liaison, Department of Health and Human Services
James Gilmore, General Public
Scott Carey, Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance

I. Convene Meeting & Roll Call

Chairman Arnold convened the meeting at 10:06 am and asked Sherry to take roll. Four Commissioners were present, establishing a quorum.

II. Invocation

Chairman Arnold provided the invocation.

III. Welcome and Introductions

Chairman Arnold asked all those present to introduce themselves and thanked everyone for attending.

IV. Initial Public Comment

There was no initial public comment.

V. Election of Vice-Chairman for the Nevada Indian Commission

Chairman Arnold opened nominations for Vice-Chairman of the Nevada Indian Commission. Commissioner Hansen commented that he was interested in the position. Commissioner McDade Williams nominated Commissioner Hansen.

A motion was made by Commissioner McDade Williams to close nominations, seconded by Commissioner Carpenter. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).

By acclamation, Commissioner John Hansen is now the Vice-Chairman of the Nevada Indian Commission.

VI. Approval of December 3, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Arnold noted that the minutes were provided in advance of the meeting.

Commissioner Hansen motioned to approve the December 3, 2015 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Commissioner Carpenter. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).

VII. Commissioner Reports and Announcements

Commissioner Hansen mentioned that he went to Ft. McDermitt for his job and met with three veterans and a widow in Battle Mountain and 15 others. He is looking to go to the Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribe next. He also completed some outreach in Elko and in Owyhee with the Duck Valley Shoshone-Paiute Tribe. He mentioned he has been trying to get tribal veterans to apply for their benefits; they need to apply for them. He also mentioned there two tribes that have signed Memorandums of Understanding with the Veteran's Administration; those are the Elko and Yerington tribes.

Sherry mentioned that she sits on the Veterans Service Commission and the Inter-agency Veterans Advisory Commission and that the Department of Veterans Services is looking at training Veteran Services Officers (VSO's) to be housed within the tribes.

Commissioner Carpenter reported that he went by and introduced himself to the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe. The Commissioners agreed that any outreach in the tribal communities is good.

VIII. Executive Director Report – Sherry L. Rupert

Sherry briefly shared highlights from her report.

One item that Sherry is interested in is advocating for a tourism development position. The state does a wonderful job of marketing the state, but does not currently help tribes develop tourism in their communities. She is adamant about tourism and the opportunities it can provide because she sees the demand and she sees the statistics about the types of travelers that Indian Country attracts. The tourism industry would provide an additional revenue stream for tribes. It is not about exploitation, but educating the public about who we are, in our own words. This will be a further discussion with the Director of Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs.

Commissioner McDade Williams agrees that a position designated for tribal tourism development is a good idea. She wanted to know how to use this forum to use the Commission to do some of the development so we get people thinking that way.

Chairman Arnold stated that there is great potential in the area of tourism. All tribes in the state have some uniqueness. This could be done in collaboration with other tribes. The Chairman mentioned that he noticed that there was an ad for the Navajo Department of Tourism in the airline magazine on the way to the meeting. He said that Nevada often gets overlooked because the Nevada tribes don't have anything to sell. He would like to see this happen through the commission. The NIC needs to help the tribes to build capacity.

Sherry mentioned that she has been working through Nevada's Indian Territory to bring training and information to the Nevada tribes, but there needs to be someone that would help in the area of development. Sherry noted that she had spoken with the State of Oregon as they have had a person in the past that had assisted their tribes with development.

Chairman Arnold inquired if the position doesn't happen, what will be the alternative? Sherry suggested that if the Commission doesn't get the position then, the Commission needs to advocate for the Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs to have a position, especially since Chairman Arnold sits on the Nevada Commission on Tourism. Chairman Arnold commented that he agrees, but that the NIC will need to be able to build a strong enough case before approaching the Department.

Commissioner McDade Williams would like to have a tourism subcommittee if we move that way. She would like to lead that effort.

Chairman Arnold recommended that the NIC gather more information on this. Tourism development should be on the next NIC meeting agenda.

Commissioner McDade Williams used zip lining as an example, mentioning that this activity is very popular right now. The tribes have to come up with somewhere where people will want to go.

Commissioner Carpenter suggested that there needed to be some kind of central place that could represent all of the tribes. They could then send visitors out to other areas from this central place. So many people want to know more about the Indian tribes.

Sherry mentioned that the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony is still interested in developing a cultural center that would showcase the Great Basin Tribes. Further, that this project is within the top five priorities for the tribe.

Commissioner Hansen motioned to approve the Executive Director report as presented, seconded by Commissioner McDade Williams. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).

IX. Update on Combining the Tribal Early Childhood Advisory Committee (TECAC) and the Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC)

Sherry explained that she had contacted the Attorney General's Office about the proper way to combine the TECAC with the IEAC. Essentially, the Attorney General's Office said that the advisory committee is under the NIC and that the NIC has the authority to disband or to combine as necessary.

Sherry stated that she has had extensive conversations with both committees and she is recommending that the NIC combine the two advisory committees.

Commissioner Hansen motioned to approve the executive director recommendation to merge the TECAC and the IEAC, seconded by Commissioner McDade Williams. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).

X. Update on Planning for Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Summit, June 28-30, 2016

Sherry reported that the dates of the TEK Summit have been postponed to June 28-30, 2016. She further explained that the dates were postponed due to the need for additional outreach to California Tribes. The group was not getting commitment for participation from the California Tribes that they wanted. Since then, committee members have completed the additional outreach and the majority of the California Tribes are interested in participating.

XI. Report on Indian Territory Projects and Activities

Chris pointed some highlights on her written report.

In response to Chris' report on additional maintenance to the Stewart Indian School Trail kiosk, Chairman Arnold recommended that using a more durable Lexan glass might be a better option instead of plexiglass. He stated that the hard water creates the cloudy look, and there are products that can clean this off and seal it.

XII. Indian Education

A. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms for the Indian Education Advisory Committee (IEAC)

Sherry explained that there are five forms to be considered at this meeting. The forms are for: Lori Pasqua, Fredina Drye-Romero, Rhonda Knight, San San Tin and Rita Imus.

Commissioner Hansen motioned to approve the five representatives to the IEAC, seconded by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).

B. Written Report on IEAC Activities

Commissioner McDade Williams motioned to approve the IEAC report as written, seconded by Commissioner Hansen. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).

C. Written Report on Current Indian Education Program Activities

Commissioner Hansen motioned to approve the Nevada Department of Education, Indian Education Program Professional's report as written, seconded by Commissioner Williams. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).

D. Update on Planning for the National Indian Education Association (NIEA) Convention, October 5-8, 2016

Sherry asked the Commissioners to take a look at the PowerPoint that she had created in regard to the NIEA and how Nevada was able to get the bid for the 2016 NIEA Convention. Sherry is the Co-Chair of Cultural Activities Subcommittee, Fredina is the Co-Chair for the Powwow Subcommittee and Lynn is the Co-Chair for the Volunteers Subcommittee. Sherry and Fredina are in charge of gathering donations and sponsorships for the Powwow and the Cultural Reception. This is an opportunity to showcase the state, the tribal communities and the great things that are happening in Indian Education in Nevada.

Commissioner McDade Williams inquired if Mrs. Antoinette Cavanaugh had been involved in the planning. Sherry stated that she had not as of yet, but would be brought in as the planning gets further along.

Chairman Arnold suggested that having honor guards of the tribes, including Southern Nevada, all together would make for a huge showing. He commented that he knows that this is a huge undertaking, but it will have a huge impact.

Sherry mentioned that the Nevada Committee already has a lot of the planning done, and NIEA is very impressed. Chairman Arnold also stated that Education is important to Nevada.

XIII. STEWART INDIAN SCHOOL

A. Approval of Appointment of Representative Forms for the Stewart Advisory Committee

Sherry reported that she had received 2 Appointment of Representative Forms for Terri McBride and Karen de Dufour for the Board to consider.

Commissioner Hansen motioned to approve the 2 forms for Terri McBride and Karen de Dufour, seconded by Commissioner McDade Williams. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).

B. Approval of Report on Stewart History and Preservation Project

Chris went over her written report with the Commissioners.

Sherry added that the Committee wants to enhance the Princess contest and grow it into a Princess Pageant. The Committee would like to add this to the Thursday evening alumni reception. They feel it is important

to promote the Powwow Princess throughout the year and are working on a list of events for the Princess to participate.

Chairman Arnold inquired if there was a Miss Indian Nevada Pageant any more. Sherry stated that they no longer have the pageant. He thought it might be a good idea to bring all the Miss Indian Nevada Princesses here to Stewart and have it culminate in the Stewart Father's Day Powwow Princess Pageant. This may ensure more contestants.

Commissioner McDade Williams motioned to approve the Stewart History and Preservation Project report as presented and submitted by Chris Ann Gibbons, seconded by Commissioner Hansen. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent).

C. Update and Invitation from the Stewart Indian School Preservation Alliance (SISPA)

Scott Carey made the presentation on behalf of SISPA. Scott mentioned that SISPA has created a logo for the organization and now has their own phone number courtesy of AT&T for a year. SISPA received a \$25,000 grant toward a Stewart Indian School documentary. Lastly, they are working on their first major fundraising event, "Stewart Under the Stars." There will be tours, entertainment and dinner on Saturday, May 21, 2016. It will be held outside in front of Building #1, Cultural Center. Scott thanked Sherry and the staff for all their help on the planning of this event.

Chairman Arnold thanked Scott for his presentation. He had a thought on the phone number; the number could end in "SISPA."

XIV. Agenda Items for Future Meetings

Suggestions for future agenda items included: Update and research on potential tourism position, report on TEK Summit, budget and meeting minutes.

Commissioner McDade Williams asked if the NIC would like to discuss regulating medical marijuana and tribes. Chairman Arnold stated that there have been various tribes that are interested in this; warrants some discussion. Maybe the Commission can provide some guidance and some clarity. How does the Commission best move forward on this if it arises? He suggested the Executive Director contact the Attorney General's office for guidance on this issue.

Commissioner Hansen said that many tribes have expressed interest. What is the Commission supposed to tell the tribes if they want to grow and sell marijuana?

Chairman Arnold agreed that there are many tribes that are interested in this. Commissioner McDade Williams said that the Las Vegas Paiute Tribe is interested in this.

Commissioner McDade Williams asked about Bill Draft Requests (BDR's) and if the Board would have the opportunity to comment. She would like to be able to comment on any BDR's to be submitted. Sherry mentioned that she is looking at a few potential BDR's and if needed, she could call a special meeting to go over this. It was the consensus of the Board that they would like to have input into the BDR's before they are submitted to the Governor's Office.

Chairman Arnold stated that there is something to the Commission having programs, especially in the area of tourism. There are also going to be other topics for tribes, like economic development and building capacity within the tribes.

Any other requests for agenda items can be forwarded to Sherry.

XV. Scheduling and Location of Next NIC Meeting

The next Nevada Indian Commission Board Meeting was scheduled for June 2, 2016 to begin at 10:00am.

XVI. Final Public Comment

There was no public comment.

XVII. Adjournment

Commissioner Carpenter motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Hansen. The motion carried with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions (1 absent). Meeting was adjourned at 11:35 am.

CERTIFICATION

It is hereby certified that these Meeting Minutes were approved at a meeting of the Nevada Indian Commission with a vote of 4 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions, 1 absent, at a meeting duly held on August 8, 2016.

Certified by:



Sherry L. Rupert, Executive Director
Nevada Indian Commission